REVIEWS OF THE BOOKS OF THE WEEK AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

Miss Johnston's Tale of the Witchcraft Days—Some Suffragettes Gently Satirized.

Joseph C. Lincoln on Cape Cod Again—New Fiction by Zona Gale, Julie Lippmann and Others.

Works of Biography and History—Treatises of Bridge Whist, Electric Appliances and Other Subjects.

Perhaps the England of King James was not so gloomy nor so full of suspicion as Miss Mary Johnston makes out in "The Witch" (Houghton Mifflin Company), but it certainly was a time when religion was taken very seriously, as politics were to be taken before long, and when there was physical risk in differing with the people about you. To begin with Queen Elizabeth on her death bed may be a bit theatrical, but it is one way of bidding farewell to the Merry England of tradition. A man with the tolerant twentieth century views on religion, who could not keep his mouth shut, would surely be in constant peril, as she represents; he might find it very unpleasant even nowadays to talk too freely in the wrong company on matters about which feeling runs high. For a delusion as senseless as the belief in witches an age which is exempt from credulity can have no sympathy. It is kind of Miss Johnston, nevertheless, to select an English instance instead of the unpleasant Salem experience.

The heroine is a lovely, sensible country girl, who is left alone and tills her garden quietly. She incurs the displeasure of a fanatic preacher and arouses the passions of a Puritan bigot. The witch fever reaches the town, and trivial, innocent actions are misinterpreted by thoughtless, stupid or malevolent neighbors till the community is convinced that she is a witch. The hero is a physician who, after publishing a philosophical pamphlet and being condemned for heresy, has escaped from France and found shelter in the same village. He lives by himself, does good to all, risks his life in an epidemic of plague, acts in every way as a primitive Christian might, but arouses the preacher's wrath. The two rarely meet till they are put in jail, charged with sorcery, the evidence against them being the good deeds they have done. They have this in common, that each holds to the truth as each sees it. The whole account of the growing suspicions, of the behavior of the accused and of the trial is as brilliant work as Miss Johnston has done. It is harrowing, but it is a simple, straightforward story, all the more effective on that account.

After they have been condemned to be burned at the stake the author saves their lives in order to torment them still more. A freethinking nobleman arranges for their escape and has them put on a ship bound to Virginia. The vessel is becalmed till some one recognizes the witch and the two are set adrift in a rowboat. They reach an island, presumably one of the Bahamas, and are well treated by the Indians; by that time they are in love. They live happily for a few years, when the Spaniards come and slay their child and their friends; they escape to another island and from that are rescued by an English ship homeward bound. On arriving they are recognized at once, taken back to the village and to the jail, and we leave them as they are about to be hanged. Their assurance that they are right sustains them.

It can hardly be called a cheerful tale and the assumption that twentieth century ideals would have been deadly in the seventeenth century is hardly warranted. There were clear headed thinkers and decent men even in the witch hunting days, some of whom left a name in history, and their views are acceptable to-day, perhaps with some slight change of language. Yet it is a well told and effective story, the most artistic that Miss Johnston has written, even if she allows ill fortune to heap up too heavily on her unlucky victims.

SOME NEW FICTION.

In William Jasper Nicolls's story of "Wild Mustard" (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia) it may be learned that Anne had an uncomfortable time with the suffragettes. She was young. She did not heed what her kind old father said, nor what her wise and industrious mother said, nor what Harold Lukens said. The suffragettes set out to march to Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania. The idea was that there was to be an army of them. There was to be a general at their head and they were to be provided with drums, trumpets, banners and everything that belongs to an army. They were to "move" on the State Legislature.

The story tells how there was trouble with the automobiles, how most of the army deserted, how the army came almost to consist merely of Anne. Of course the girl was humiliated. It was hard to be jeered on the way to Harrisburg. She did not proceed all the way to that threatened and expectant city. Reversing the direction of her march, she was soon again at home and in the gladdened arms of her parents and of Harold Lukens. The story is a playful satire. It mocks gently the "unrest" of women.

How far Joseph C. Lincoln's "Kent Knowles, Quahaug" (Appletons) is autobiographical we will not venture to say. The desultory opening, the departure from his Cape Cod stamping ground and the impressions of travel will lead the reader to suspect that he is unburdening his own memory. As a spinster from the Cape is his companion the international comparisons on board the steamer and in England are very amusing; they are good natured and avoid the things that most travellers complain of. The purely American jokes are very bright. The reader will grow fond of the spinster as the journey proceeds. The complication that develops into the real plot is unexpected and funny; Mr. Lincoln exerts himself to tell a love story and does pretty well, though the Parisian portion might have been spared and the ending is somewhat clumsy. He seems to have met with some disagreeables in England. It is a thoroughly enjoyable story, even if it is unlike those to which he has accustomed us. The whimsical turn in it makes us hope he will keep on, though we should be sorry to lose sight of his Cape Cod folks.

An uncommonly impressionable physician is the hero of Frances Nimmo Greene's "One Clear Call" (Charles Scribner's Sons). He determines impulsively to stand by a boyhood's friend who has gone to the bad and is the warning example of the Southern town in which he lives. This gets him into trouble, because the town seems inclined to think evil of all men and, though the people have known the doctor all his lifetime, they assume that he is going down hill too. Together they endeavor to set right the bad man's wrongdoing and naturally find out that it cannot be done. The doctor exhorts every one to assist in reclaiming his friend. He has also fallen in love with a mysterious stranger and has paid her attentions wholly regardless of the lady's reputation; he explains his friend's case to her and the necessity of bringing back to him the wife who has deserted him, but whom he loves. They argue the case, but when he finds out that she is the woman he weakens. She finally decides to return to her husband in spite of the doctor's remonstrance and the husband kindly dies. He shows, so far as we can make the author out, higher chivalry than his friend who has failed in the test he set himself. The ethics of the story are rather subtle: everything, apparently, should be sacrificed for the unrepentant sinner. There is so much pride that it is difficult to understand why some is praiseworthy and some to be blamed. There are several attractive women and some who are disagreeable; the author writes with enthusiasm and holds the reader's attention.

Extraordinary complications arise from the discovery that an insignificant English clerk has the faculty of dreaming the winner in a horse race before the event in W. Holt White's "The Man Who Dreamed Right" (Mitchell Kennerley, New York). Diplomats, journalists and stock brokers fight to get possession of him and make him dream beforehand the result of the matters that interest them. The idea is ingenious and farcical and the story at first is amusing. After the clerk has been kidnapped several times it begins to be monotonous and as soon as the author ventures into international complications it becomes rather flat. The clerk's loyalty to his country is pathetic. The love episode does not fit in, though it has a good theme for a story in it. The American portion may amuse English readers but spoils the book for Americans.

The "Neighborhood Stories," by Zona Gale (Macmillans), are cumulative in their effect. While each episode that the amiable narrator relates stands by itself, the theme in each is the need of kindliness among neighbors. Her Christmas tree is not for the family nor any association of persons, it is for the whole community. The village people are natural and amusing, the simple events are interesting, the satire shows a rational view of human nature. If there is a little preaching it does not hurt the story, for the story itself enforces the lesson the author has in mind. It is a pleasing and true picture of American life.

A review of the whole career of Julie M. Lippmann's heroine is supplied in the six stories, "Martha and Cupid" (Henry Holt and Company). In the first story she decides on which man she will marry; in the last she celebrates her silver wedding. In all she manifests her cheerfulness and contentment and her decisions seem to combine common sense with right sentiment. In all she proves that there are better things than worldly success. Readers of the other Martha books will enjoy this one.

The glories of Kansas are described with great enthusiasm in "Winning the Wilderness," by Margaret Hill McCarter (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago). In the first part she shows vividly the character of the pioneers, the hardships they endured and their satisfaction with the land they had subdued. It is an interesting set of people; even the real estate agent is honest at bottom, only the saloon keeper is wicked, for it is to be a prohibition State. The second part deals with the second generation, and that brings in Funston and the Kansas volunteers in the Philippines. The villain's plotting is unnecessary claptrap; the story, with all its patriotism, is interesting despite the melodrama.

The efforts of engineers to control the Colorado River in southern Arizona is the subject of Ednah Aiken's "The River" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis). It seems to be a rearrangement for the purpose of fiction of quite recent occurrences in that region and travel impressions. We are ready to accept the hero's superiority over his rival and the difficulties of the task, assigned to him. We confess that we are completely puzzled by the engineering feats and are unable to discover where one set of plans is at fault or the other successful. Everybody seems to work under great excitement and the result seems to be usually failure. With the moral that the job is bigger than any man we are ready to agree. A number of interesting people appear in the book and arouse expectation that they have something to do with the story; they merely serve to fill out the landscape of the irrigation country. The married flirt deserts her husband, apparently because she is tired of the country. The heroine overcomes her dislike of the hero and marries him. So far as there is any coherent action in the tale it has to do with the relations between the railroad, the Government and the settlers, a matter on which the reader will feel that he is unable to judge. There are fine descriptions and entertaining conversations in the story; the reader would like to share the author's enthusiasms if he could only find out why.

With the backwoods portion of Harriet T. Comstock's "The Place Beyond the Winds" (Doubleday, Page and Company) we have no fault to find. The heroine is the charming, graceful beauty that those regions produce in fiction; the woodland scenes are pretty. The place seems to be back of the Georgian Bay somewhere. The father is needlessly brutal and the circumstances that drive her to the outside world too unpleasant, but such things go with these backwoods tales. She becomes a trained nurse for the sole purpose, apparently, of bringing under discussion a medical subject which had better be left to competent hands and which has nothing to do with her story. The author drags in too, wholly without excuse, modifications of notorious murder cases of recent years. She seems to have strong prejudices about the professional ethics of physicians. What her love story and the woods have to do with these matters the readers may determine.

With "The Night Wind's Promise" (G. W. Dillingham Company) Varick Vanardy completes a series of sensational criminal tales in the A. Lupin style. It is hard to imagine what class of readers can take an interest in such crude and slipshod work.

FRANK H. SIMONDS, AUTHOR OF "THE GREAT WAR" (KENNERLEY)

S. S. McCLURE AUTHOR OF "MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY" (STOKES)

MRS. A.M. WILLIAMSON AUTHOR WITH C.N. WILLIAMSON OF "A SOLDIER OF THE LEGION" (DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & CO.)

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

Two large octavo volumes contain a memorial biography, "The Life of Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Nineteenth President of the United States," by Charles Richard Williams (Houghton Mifflin Company), which is perhaps more a careful arrangement of selections from an immense mass of manuscript material, diaries, letters and so forth, than a biography in the proper sense. The author, while always showing his high respect and admiration for Mr. Hayes, refrains conscientiously from intruding his own comments and opinions to a point that renders the unavoidable narrative portions colorless in the extreme. This may be due to the character of the diaries and correspondence, which are as markedly respectable, observant of the conventions, attentive to the thought of duty, and somehow lacking in interest, as Mr. Hayes was in life himself. The first volume deals with the years before Mr. Hayes entered upon the Presidential office and describes a career which many an American boy would wish to emulate; college, law school, a successful practice and happy marriage, service in the Union army so efficient as to make him a Major-General, Congress, three times Governor of his State, and at last installed as President. Always good, always conscientious, always respected, yet always dull and conventional, as these pages show. The author passes over the election as briefly as possible, referring to special works. The second year relates the personal side of the Administration and tells of the years in retirement. The biography is dignified and conscientious and probably will be frequently used for reference; what was really needed was much less respect and some feeling for human nature.

The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Brown University is the occasion for Prof. W. C. Bronson's writing "The History of Brown University" (The University, Providence, R. I.), a learned and careful piece of work, that suffers somewhat from its being an official authoritative record. The story of the beginnings with its frequent quotations from contemporary documents is very interesting. With the account of the administrations of the successive presidents, the history becomes a sort of chronological chronicle of events which, while doubtless important to university antiquarians and often such as Brown men will care for, are generally of little concern to the general public, matters such as the acquisition of apparatus or the change in the duties of professors. The biographies we fancy will be disappointing to the alumni; they give judicial estimates of the Brown worthies and of their achievements in scholarship but pass over entirely the undergraduate view, the nicknames and traditions, the pranks that made them remembered in after years.

Laudatory though the tone of Gen. Charles King is in "The True Ulysses S. Grant" (J. B. Lippincott Company) the impression left by the biography is that the evil things said of Grant were not without foundation. It is like the repetition of gossip with no attempt at proof one way or the other; gossip which in most cases should have been allowed to die. The intrigues that Grant had to contend against during the civil war would make more impression if they were told with more fairness and, bad as the second administration was, it should not have been passed over in silence.

A popular history of "The French Revolution," by Harold F. B. Wheeler, a British production, is published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company. It is a quarto volume, apparently intended for the holidays, so that the eighty well chosen illustrations are very effective. The author's style is a little pretentious, but he tells the oft repeated story entertainingly.

The same subject is treated by H. Packard Adams in "The French Revolution" (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago), a small volume. The author tells the story clearly so that it will satisfy those who wish to learn the main facts in a short time.

Though intended as a boys' book Henry Newbolt's "The Book of the Blue Sea" (Longmans, Green and Company) will attract all who care for the romance of the old fighting ships, before steam came in. Some of his stories are taken from memoirs like Basil Hall's, others tell more connectedly but from the point of view of young officers the tales of Trafalgar, of Sir John Franklin, of Admiral Pellew and of Farragut in the Essex. All are true tales of the first half of the nineteenth century, the days of Peter Simple and Midshipman Easy.

The barest touch of history will be found in Bishop Frank M. Bristol's "Heroines of History" (The Abingdon Press, New York), for the author simply explains his ideals of woman in her relations as mother, wife and daughter, drawing his examples from familiar characters in classical mythology, in Shakespeare's plays and in the Bible. In a way it is a counter blast to the modern woman agitation.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

After an interval of five years, R. F. Foster's "Foster's Complete Hoyle" appears in a new, revised and enlarged edition (Frederick A. Stokes Company). The development of one game alone, auction bridge, or whatever it is called now, would have made the revision necessary, but the author has brought every game of which he treats in the book up to date also. For card games it remains the most authoritative manual in the market. Mr. Foster has added so much to the original "Hoyle" and altered so many things that his name really characterizes the book and the old name is merely a legendary survival. The phrase "according to Hoyle" should be in the great majority of cases nowadays "according to Foster." The book has grown in size to such an extent that it might be well to consider dropping the other indoor games, billiards, chess, checkers and the rest, which cannot be treated adequately in so restricted a space and which have never been more than an appendage to the successive "Hoyles," and to limit the book to card games only.

The many possible applications of electricity to the household economy are explained by Maud Lancaster in "Electric Cooking, Heating and Cleaning" (D. Van Nostrand Company) with descriptions of the many ingenious appliances now in use. The book, unfortunately, is English and though the American editor, Stephen L. Coles, has tried hard to adapt it to American conditions and to supply lists of additional American inventions, too much space is devoted to meeting conditions and explaining contrivances that the American housekeeper will never meet. Much in the book, of course, is of a general nature, applicable everywhere.

A brief account of drawing and the reproductive processes which have grown out of it, engraving, etching and so on, is followed in George T. Plowman's "Etching" (John Lane Company) by a brief manual of that art. The illustrations are excellent; a large proportion of the work by the author himself. It is a small volume which will be very helpful to those seeking to know something about these arts, for it explains clearly many terms and clinches the explanation with graphic examples. The manual gives practical directions which should, at least, start the student well on his course.

A book so technical that its character alone can be described is George Simpson's "The Naval Constructor" (D. Van Nostrand Company), appearing in a third revised and enlarged edition, after a ten year existence. It is one of those indispensable condensed encyclopædias, crammed with tables and formulas and exact information, such as engineers carry in their pockets when engaged in field work, a book needed for reference at every moment by the professional men for whom it is designed. It is an American book intended for American constructors and is authoritative.

The instructive and valuable "Historical Guide to the City of New York," compiled by Frank Bergen Kelley (The City History Club of New York) is issued in a special "Tercentenary" edition, with much additional matter relating to the anniversary. With its many maps and pictures and the mass of information regarding the whole Greater New York, the book should be in the hands of every New Yorker who cares in the least for the city he lives in.

In "Biblical Libraries" (Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J.) Ernest Cushing Richardson gives an entertaining account of the many libraries of antiquity preceding the days of books, which is at the same time a valuable summary of one of the most important branches of archæological research. He begins with the Babylonian records and the places in which they were stored and ends with imperial Rome. It is a very delightful outpouring of a librarian's knowledge and reflections.

A brief account of previous accomplishment leads to a description of the work in which he has been engaged for nearly a quarter of a century, in Dr. Frank H. Vizetelly's "The Development of the Dictionary of the English Language" (Funk and Wagnalls Company). The pictorial representation of the mechanical processes employed in manufacturing the dictionary is interesting; even more so for those who can read it is the picture of the mental labor shown in the successive proof sheets.

Suggestions for those thinking of building bungalows or cottages will be found in "The Book of Little Houses" (Macmillans), with its ground plans and pictures and estimates. Much information is condensed in a very small book, which is one of the "Countryside Manuals" series.

The "Essentals in Music History," by Thomas Tapper and Percy Goetschius (Charles Scribner's Sons), is well suited for the purpose for which it was compiled, namely, answering correctly the questions which may be asked in school examinations. The information provided is clear and precise; half the book is devoted to the antiquities of music, no side of which seems to be neglected. When the authors finally come to music their readers are likely to hear, their estimates are equally concise and distinct. The book will be useful to the general reader, for the work is well done in its way.

The ground on which the "Selections From the Works of Jean Jacques Rousseau," by Christian Gauss (Princeton University Press), are made is not clear. The editor has taken care to pick nothing from the books on which Rousseau's fame rests. The chief reason why his works, like those of Voltaire, do not appear in the textbook lists is that their French is so clear and simple that it could only be used in classes too young to grasp properly the ideas they contain.

A description of the various pedagogical methods employed in "Teaching Children How to Read" (Appletons), with the philosophic reasons on which they are based and their advantages and disadvantages, has been written by Paul Klapper. It is a brilliant example of what modern pedagogy can evolve out a matter that once was simple enough.

THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW CRITICAL JOURNAL

A critical journal somewhat on the model of the English weeklies has just appeared under the name of the *New Republic*. It is edited by a group of well known persons, including Herbert Croly, Philip Littel, Walter E. Weyl, Walter Lippmann, Francis Hackett and Charlotte Rudyard.

Mr. Croly, speaking of the purpose of the new journal, said:

"What we wish to do in part is to treat education as the fundamental interest of democracy; to help in working out the questions of the control of industry, the power of labor and the interests of the consumer in their relation to the scientific organization of business; to fight with modern weapons against poverty, corruption and feeble good intentions; to translate into terms of action the vision of what cities and States may become; to make criticism an ally of honest artistic expression; to insist that money getting and reforming, agitation and research, are merely aspects of the desires and ironies of daily life.

"We recognize that the *New Republic* is appearing at a crisis, for since the beginning of August the United States occupies a new position in the world. Europe is in the crucible and looks to America. We have, therefore, to prepare ourselves for an unprecedented task. The function of the *New Republic* at this time then is to furnish a medium through which American and European thinkers can work out the enormous possibilities open to the United States."

A CALL TO ARMS.

[This hitherto unpublished poem by Tennyson was sent to the London "Spectator" by the present Lord Tennyson. It was adapted to a melody by Emily Lady Tennyson, arranged with symphonies and accompaniment by Sir Frederick Bridge, was sung at the Albert Hall on the afternoon of Saturday, October 10, by Kennerley Rumford and the Royal Choral Society conducted by Sir Frederick Bridge. The poem seems almost as if it were written for the present crisis.]

O WHERE is he the simple fool
Who says that wars are over?
What bloody portent flashes there
Across the Straits of Dover?
Nine hundred thousand slaves in arms
May seek to bring us under;
But England lives, and still will live,
For we'll crush the despot yonder.
Are we ready, Britons all,
To answer foes with thunder?
Arm, arm, arm!

O shame on selfish patronage—
It is the country's ruin—
Come, put the right man in his place,
And up now, and be doing!
O gather, gallant volunteers,
In every town and village,
For there are tigers—fiends, not men—
May violate, burn and pillage!
Are you ready, Britons all,
To answer foes with thunder?
Arm, arm, arm!

Up, stout limb'd yeomen, leave a while
The fattening of your cattle—
And, if indeed ye wish for Peace,
Be ready for the Battle!
To fight the Battle of the World,
Of progress and humanity,
In spite of his eight million lies
And bastard Christianity!
Are we ready, Britons all,
To answer foes with thunder?
Arm, arm, arm!

TENNYSON.

S. S. McCLURE'S ONE TEST FOR A STORY

"I had but one test for a story, and that was a wholly personal one, simply how much the story interested me. I always felt that I judged a story with my solar plexus rather than with my brain; my only measure of it was the pull it exerted upon something inside of me. Of course sometimes one is influenced by one's own mood; if one is feeling more than usually vigorous, he is apt to transfer some of his own high spirits to the story he is reading. To avoid being influenced thus, I always made a rule of reading a story three times within seven days, before I published it, to see whether my interest kept up. I have often been carried past my station on the elevated, going home at night, reading a story that I had read before within the same week."

From "My Autobiography" (Stokes).

"RIGHT WING" COMPARES FOOTBALL AND WAR

"While it does not follow that a great football coach might have been a Napoleon, I am convinced that the Little Corporal could have been a mighty football coach had he lived in our day and generation. I am aware that certain military men well versed in football play consider a comparison between football and warfare rather far fetched, but they are easily answered, for those among them who are actively engaged in coaching are putting into effect on the gridiron every fall, whether consciously or unconsciously, the basic principles of their calling.

"In warfare there are three arms, infantry, cavalry and artillery, and if in football the work of the line coupled with all attacks of the backs on the opposing forwards between tackle and tackle be considered as infantry movements; runs outside tackle and end, whether from single, double or delayed pass, as cavalry action; and punting, place and drop kicking, judiciously mixed with forward passing, as artillery fire, the parallel, it will readily be seen, is very close. The laws governing the use of the three arms in battle may be followed to the greatest advantage in football, as has already been demonstrated in action. The greater part of the game, just as the greater part of the battle, is consumed in effecting the more or less elaborate manœuvres designed to make the final assault as simple as possible—to make it swift, sharp and decisive."

From "Football for Public and Player," by Herbert Reed (Stokes).

A MINOR POET

By AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR.

THE firefly, flickering about
In busy brightness, near and far
Lets not his little lamp go out
Because he cannot be a star.
He only seeks the hour he lives,
Bravely his tiny part to play,
And all his being freely gives
To make a summer evening gay.

—From "In Deep Places" (Doran).